

# BELGIUM REENTERS WORLD OF FINANCE

## INSANE HOSPITALS ALL OVERCROWDED

**Report to Governor Shows  
Lack of Attendants.**

**Has Been Reborn as Great Na-  
tion of Traders—Trans-  
portation Reorganized.**

### COAL MINES AT 94 P. C.

**Is Adjusting Economic Prob-  
lems in Firm and Orderly  
Manner.**

The remarkable resumption of Belgium's coal mining, the complete reorganization of her transportation system, the determined progress of her wrecked steel industry, the resurrection of the port of Antwerp, the recovery of \$800,000,000 of machinery stolen by Germany, the firm and orderly adjustment of her labor problems, the repopulating of her textile mills and her reentry into the world of finance as one of the great trading nations are facts outlined in a sketch of the new Belgian given out yesterday by D. L. Blount, an American, who until recently directed the Central Information Office of the Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs.

"The most striking figures," says Mr. Blount, "of the actual resumption of Belgian industry for the first two months of 1919, as compared with those for the corresponding period of 1918, are the following: Coal mines, 94 per cent; refined sugar, 100 per cent; cotton spindles in operation, 75 per cent; cotton looms, 80 per cent; wool products, 75 per cent; shoes, 70 per cent; window glass, 24 per cent; plate glass, 36 per cent. Even the steel mills, which suffered most, have recovered 90 per cent."

On the Belgian coal situation Mr. Blount says: "Coal production in October was 89 per cent of normal figures for October last, being 1,884,740 long tons. During the first nine months of 1919 Belgium exported 2,974,871 long tons. These exports have been made on a basis of reciprocity."

With the total mileage of 5,400 miles Belgium had the greatest railway mileage of any country in proportion to her territory. Of it 1,356 miles of standard gauge track and 1,000 miles of narrow gauge had been destroyed at the time of the armistice. "Yet," says Mr. Blount, "all but thirty-five miles of track, rendered useless by the devastation of the adjacent areas, has been reconstructed. There has been a steady reclaiming of rolling stock from Germany, although much of it was in very bad condition, and together with what was left of the former Belgian rolling stock requires constant repairing. Notwithstanding these difficulties in September last 40 per cent of the passenger service and 50 per cent of the pre-war freight traffic had been resumed."

Analyzing the Belgian steel situation he says: "The effort which Belgium is making to regain her position as a large exporter of steel products (she exported before the war 79 per cent of her production) is shown by the fact that in the first nine months of 1919, the exports for September alone being 45,000 long tons. Comparison of certain figures for October last with those for the corresponding month of 1918 shows the following percentages of resumption: Cast iron, 18 per cent; iron or steel wire and rods, 55 per cent; nails, 55 per cent."

Few countries have had less difficulty than Belgium in adjusting their post-war labor problems; first, explains Mr. Blount, because "the Belgian workers did not receive the same pay increase which many other workers obtained in other allied countries during four years and the passing of the war has meant to him an increase in wages rather than a threatened reduction to a scale in keeping with the new conditions. Second, the high cost of living has not affected the laborer in Belgium in the same degree as in other countries, owing to his natural thrift and to the remarkable organization of Belgian cooperative societies."

### ARRIVED FROM NEW YORK.

Mr. Frederik, at Christiansand.

Sa Saunders, at London.

Sa Jacques Cartier, at Havre.

Sa Lebanon, at Bordeaux.

Sa New Haven, at Antwerp.

Sa Francisco, at San Francisco.

Sa Honolulu, at San Juan.

Sa Hadnot, Tuxpan, Jan. 1.

Sa Jamestown, Norfolk.

Sa Crete, Boston, Jan. 14.

**ARRIVED FROM NEW YORK.**

Sa Lapland, Antwerp, Jan. 1.

Sa Fort Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan. 12.

Sa Cibao, Kingston, Jan. 8.

Sa Joseph J. Curran, Port Antonio, Jan. 8.

Sa New York, Jan. 1.

Sa Hadnot, Tuxpan, Jan. 1.

Sa Jamestown, Norfolk.

Sa Crete, Boston, Jan. 14.

**SAILED FOR NEW YORK.**

Sa Canaria, from Liverpool.

Sa Baltic, from Liverpool.

Sa Mexico, from Lisbon.

Sa Antiopeo, from Antwerp.

Sa Porto, from Marseilles.

Sa Pusan, from Liverpool.

Sa Sagadahoc, from Avonmouth.

Sa Navarino, from Cardiff.

Sa Crosswell, from Santos.

Sa Ustica, from Bahia.

**OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS.**

To-day.

Mails Close.

Vessels Sailing.

Savannah, Ch. R. I. 9:30 A. M.

Sa Rio Janeiro, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Mexico, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Turk, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Santos, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Rio, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Ancon, Cristobal, 9:30 M. 9:30 P. M.

To-morrow.

Sa E. Africa, Liverpool, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Manila, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Mexico, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Rio, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Santos, 9:30 A. M.

Sa Rio, 9:30 A. M.